

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

JOHN BETTENCOURT,

Plaintiff,

vs.

THE TOP-FLITE GOLF COMPANY,

Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION NO. _____

05-30179-MFP

PETITION FOR REMOVAL

TO THE JUDGES OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT
OF MASSACHUSETTS:

Defendant, The Top-Flite Golf Company, respectfully states:

1. On or after July 15, 2005, Defendant was served with a Complaint commenced in the Superior Court, Hampden County, which is entitled John Bettencourt v. The Top Flight Golf Company, Civil Action No. 05-00676. Copies of the Complaint and Summons are annexed hereto as Exhibit A.

2. This action is a civil action of which this Court has original jurisdiction under the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1331, and is one that may be removed to this Court by Defendants pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1441, in that it is a civil action alleging violations of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (29 U.S.C. § 626, et seq.).

3. This Petition for Removal is filed with this Court within 30 days after receipt by Defendant of a copy of the initial pleading setting forth the claim for relief upon which such action is based, and the summons.

cc'd evet
copy to C

WHEREFORE, Defendant, The Top-Flite Golf Company, prays that the above action now pending in the Superior Court, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Hampden County, be removed to this Court.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jay M. Presser, Esq.

BBO No. 405760

Counsel for Defendant

Skoler, Abbott & Presser, P.C.

One Monarch Place, Suite 2000

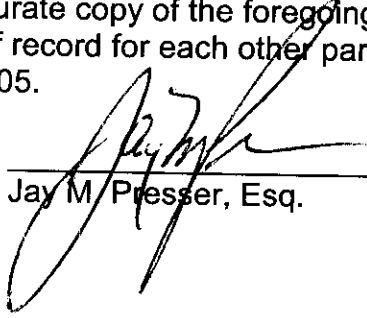
Springfield, Massachusetts 01144

Tel.: (413) 737-4753/Fax: (413) 787-1941

Dated: August 2, 2005

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and accurate copy of the foregoing *Petition for Removal* was served upon the attorney of record for each other party by first-class, U.S. mail, postage prepaid, on August 2, 2005.



Jay M. Presser, Esq.

COMPLAINT ATTORNEY: PLEASE CIRCLE TYPE OF ACTION INVOLVED:
 (TORT) MOTOR VEHICLE TORT - CONTRACT - EQUITABLE RELIEF - OTHER

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

HAMPDEN, ss.

SUPERIOR COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
CIVIL ACTION

NO. 05-676

JOHN BETTENCOURT
_____, PLAINTIFF(S)

V.

TOP-FLITE GOLF COMPANY
_____, DEFENDANT(S)

SUMMONS

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon
 Maurice M. Cahillane, Esq.,
 67 Market St., Springfield, MA _____, plaintiff's attorney, whose address is
 you, within 20 days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do
 so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You are also
 required to file your answer to the complaint in the office of the Clerk of this court at Springfield either before
 service upon the plaintiff's attorney or within a reasonable time thereafter.

Unless otherwise provided by rule 13(a), your answer must state as a counterclaim any claim which
 you may have against the plaintiff which arises out of the transaction or occurrence that is the subject matter
 of the plaintiff's claim or you will thereafter be barred from making such claim in any other action.

Witness, Barbara J. Rouse, Esq., at Springfield the 14th day of
 July _____ in the year of our Lord two thousand five.

Marie G. Grazza
 Clerk / Magistrate

NOTES:

1. This summons is issued pursuant to Rule 4 of the Massachusetts Rules of Civil Procedure.
2. When more than one defendant is involved, the names of all such defendants should appear in the caption. If a separate summons is used for each defendant, each should be addressed to the particular defendant.

FORM No.1

Plaintiff's Attorney: You need not appear personally in court to answer the complaint, but if you claim to have a defense, either you or your attorney must serve a copy of your written answer within 20 days as specified herein and also file the original in the Clerk's office.

COPY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT

HAMPDEN, ss

Superior Court Division
Civil Action No.: 05-676

JOHN BETTENCOURT,)
Plaintiff)
vs.)
TOP-FLITE GOLF COMPANY)
Defendants)

COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1. The plaintiff, John Bettencourt, is a natural person residing at 168 Windwood Drive, Ludlow, Hampden County, Massachusetts.
2. The defendant, Top-Flite Golf Company, is a Delaware corporation with a principal place of business at 425 Meadow Street, Chicopee, Hampden County, Massachusetts.
3. The plaintiff was employed by the defendant, Top-Flite, and its predecessor for over thirty years. He last served as Cost Manager until his termination on April 15, 2004. He was 49 years old at the time. He was informed that his position was being eliminated and was not offered any other position. Plaintiff performed his job well and within the employer's legitimate expectations.
4. There were other available positions in the corporation for which the plaintiff was qualified.

5. At the same time, four other employees over the age of 40 in plaintiff's department were also let go.
6. Subsequently, the CEO of Top-Flite, Robert Penicka, made a public statement to the effect that he had created a younger management team by design.
7. The plaintiff was terminated because of his age.

COUNT I

8. The plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1 through 7.
9. The defendant's actions violated 29 U.S.C., Section 626 (the Age Discrimination in Employment Act) by terminating the plaintiff because of his age. The actions of the defendant were intentional and willful.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiff prays that:

- a. That judgment be entered in his favor;
- b. That he be reinstated and awarded full compensatory damages;
- c. That he be awarded liquidated damages;
- d. That he be awarded attorneys fees, interest and costs.
- e. That the court grant such other relief as it deems just.

COUNT II

10. The plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1 through 9.
11. Defendants violated General Laws Chapter 151B, Section 4, by terminating the plaintiff because of his age. The actions of the defendant were intentional and willful.

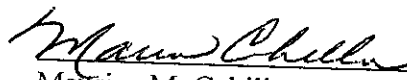
WHEREFORE, the plaintiff prays that:

- a. That judgment be entered in his favor;
- b. That he be reinstated and awarded full compensatory damages;
- c. That he be awarded multiple damages;
- d. That he be awarded attorneys fees, interest and costs.
- e. That the court grant such other relief as it deems just.

PLAINTIFF DEMANDS A TRIAL BY JURY.

THE PLAINTIFF, JOHN BETTENCOURT
BY HIS ATTORNEY

Dated: 7/8/05


Maurice M. Cahillane, Esq., BBO# 069660
EGAN, FLANAGAN AND COHEN, P.C.
67 Market Street - Post Office Box 9035
Springfield, MA 01102
(413) 737-0260; Fax: (413) 737-0121

JS 44 (Rev. 11/04)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

JOHN BETTENCOURT

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Hampden
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Maurice M. Cahillane, Esq. (413) 737-0260
Plan, Flanagan and Cohen, P.C.
67 Market Street, P.O. Box 9035, Springfield, MA 01102

DEFENDANTS

THE TOP-FLITE GOLF COMPANY

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Hampden
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

Jay M. Presser, Esq. (413) 737-4753
Skoller, Abbott & Presser, P.C.
One Monarch Place, Suite 2000, Springfield, MA 01144

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION

(Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff ☒ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant ☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | PTF | DEF | | PTF | DEF |
| Citizen of This State | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

IV. NATURE OF SUIT

(Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TORTS		FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 610 Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> 620 Other Food & Drug <input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 630 Liquor Laws <input type="checkbox"/> 640 R.R. & Truck <input type="checkbox"/> 650 Airline Regs. <input type="checkbox"/> 660 Occupational Safety/Health <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 810 Selective Service <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 892 Economic Stabilization Act <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 894 Energy Allocation Act <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 444 Welfare <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights	PRISONER PETITIONS <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition	LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	

V. ORIGIN

(Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 Original Proceeding ☒ 2 Removed from State Court ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened ☐ 5 Transferred from another district (specify) ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation ☐ 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing. (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):
28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 29 U.S.C. § 626, et seq.

Brief description of cause: Civil action alleging violations of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act.

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23

DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☒ Yes ☐ No**VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY**

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

306008

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44**Authority For Civil Cover Sheet**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

I. (a) Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.

(b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)

(c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".

II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.C.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.

United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)

III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.

IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerks in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.

V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.

Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment. (7) Check this box for an appeal from a magistrate judge's decision.

VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553
Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service

VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

Demand. In this space enter the dollar amount (in thousands of dollars) being demanded or indicate other demand such as a preliminary injunction.

Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.

VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket number and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

1. Title of case (name of first party on each side only) JOHN BETTENCOURT V. THE TOP-FLITE GOLF COMPANY
-
2. Category in which the case belongs based upon the numbered nature of suit code listed on the civil cover sheet. (See local rule 40.1(a)(1)).
- ☐ I. 160, 410, 470, 535, R.23, REGARDLESS OF NATURE OF SUIT.
- ☒ II. 195, 196, 368, 400, 440, 441-446, 540, 550, 555, 625, 710, 720, 730, 740, 790, 791, 820*, 830*, 840*, 850, 890, 892-894, 895, 950. *Also complete AO 120 or AO 121 for patent, trademark or copyright cases
- ☐ III. 110, 120, 130, 140, 151, 190, 210, 230, 240, 245, 290, 310, 315, 320, 330, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 362, 365, 370, 371, 380, 385, 450, 891.
- ☐ IV. 220, 422, 423, 430, 460, 480, 490, 510, 530, 610, 620, 630, 640, 650, 660, 690, 810, 861-865, 870, 871, 875, 900.
- ☐ V. 150, 152, 153.
3. Title and number, if any, of related cases. (See local rule 40.1(g)). If more than one prior related case has been filed in this district please indicate the title and number of the first filed case in this court.
- NONE
-
4. Has a prior action between the same parties and based on the same claim ever been filed in this court?
- YES ☐ NO ☒
5. Does the complaint in this case question the constitutionality of an act of congress affecting the public interest? (See 28 USC §2403)
- YES ☐ NO ☒
- If so, is the U.S.A. or an officer, agent or employee of the U.S. a party?
- YES ☐ NO ☐
6. Is this case required to be heard and determined by a district court of three judges pursuant to title 28 USC §2284?
- YES ☐ NO ☒
7. Do all of the parties in this action, excluding governmental agencies of the united states and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ("governmental agencies"), residing in Massachusetts reside in the same division? - (See Local Rule 40.1(d)).
- YES ☒ NO ☐
- A. If yes, in which division do all of the non-governmental parties reside?
- Eastern Division ☐ Central Division ☐ Western Division ☒
- B. If no, in which division do the majority of the plaintiffs or the only parties, excluding governmental agencies, residing in Massachusetts reside?
- Eastern Division ☐ Central Division ☐ Western Division ☐
8. If filing a Notice of Removal - are there any motions pending in the state court requiring the attention of this Court? (If yes, submit a separate sheet identifying the motions)
- YES ☐ NO ☒

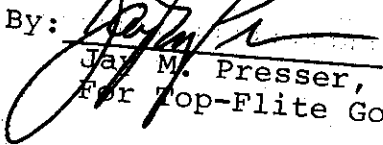
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

ATTORNEY'S NAME Jay M. Presser, Esq.ADDRESS Skoler, Abbott & Presser, P.C., One Monarch Place, Suite 2000, Springfield, MA 01144TELEPHONE NO. (413) 737-4753

PROOF OF SERVICE OF PROCESS

I hereby certify and return that on _____, 2005, I served a copy of the within summons, together with a copy of the original complaint, in this action, upon the within named defendant, in the following manner (See Mass. R. Civ. P. 4 (d)(1-5):

Accepted for Service of Process

By: 
Jay M. Presser, Esq.
For Top-Flite Golf Company

Dated: July 15, 2005

N.B. TO PROCESS SERVER:
PLEASE PLACE DATE YOU MAKE SERVICE ON DEFENDANT IN THIS
BOX ON THE ORIGINAL AND ON THE COPY SERVED ON DEFENDANT.

(_____)
(_____)
(_____, 2005)
(_____)